

The Alaska Guardsman

A publication by the 134th Public Affairs Detachment
for the Alaska Army National Guard

Alaska Guard assists community buried in snow

Maj. Guy Hayes,
AKNG Public Affairs Office

CAMP DENALI, Alaska— Alaska National Guard members arrived in Cordova Jan. 8 to help the citizens in this small Alaska town dig out from a series of winter storms.

Termed Operation Deep Dig, 57 Alaska National Guardsmen arrived on the state's ferry system with shovels in hand ready to assist but keeping safety the number one priority according to Alaska Army National Guard Capt. Chad Ausel, commander, 761st Military Police Company.

"As soon as we got there, we identified a priority list for safety and familiarization training with Cordova. We asked for a subject matter expert on how they've cleared snow here safely and then completed training on harnesses, ropes and knots to make sure the Guardsmen are trained to do the mission safely," Ausel said.

With training complete, Ausel focused on getting his Soldiers out in the community today to assist wherever they're needed.

"We got everything staged, equipment ready and the Soldiers ready to go," Ausel said. "The city officials identified three locations



Photo by: Spc. Balinda O'Neal, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Alaska National Guardsmen clear a building roof in Cordova Jan. 9. Fifty-seven National Guardsmen assisted citizens in this small Alaska town dig out from a series of winter storms.

in the morning, and we stayed in squads to clear those areas."

With more snow and rain, the Alaska National Guard arrived at a crucial time to assist before things potentially got worse.

"We were concerned about heavy and wet snow on roofs," said Allen Marquette, public information officer with the city of Cordova. "Some structures had already collapsed. We were trying to get those prioritized and shoveled off and assist residents in

anticipation of the new snow and rain that's coming."

Mayor Jim Kallander of Cordova also commented on the response to his community and how pleased he is with the assistance the City of Cordova has received from the state.

"I can't say how impressed I am with the homeland security response, the Governor's office response and the National Guard stepping up to the plate," Kallander

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Command Philosophy

Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges

The key principal to my command philosophy is that all people deserve to be treated with respect. Respect should be given as a common courtesy, but is also earned through deeds and actions. Respect means treating people the way you would like to be treated.

Respect is the key word to remember the following:

R = **Readiness:** All units within the AKARNG will be mission capable. They will perform their duties in an outstanding manner and we will be an example for other States to follow. Each Soldier is tasked with ensuring he/she is ready mentally, physically, and fiscally. This includes all **units** developing and fostering strong Family Readiness Programs.

E = **Education:** Leadership will seek to send all qualified Soldiers to courses needed to further their education and career. Always strive to improve your knowledge and be willing to share and receive information.

S = **Supply Discipline:** Unit equipment is maintained at 10/20 standards. Soldiers are responsible for security and preventive maintenance of equipment hand receipted to or used by them. This does not mean storing your equipment and never using it. Basic rule #1: Get it out of storage and use it. Basic rule #2: You sign for it, you lose or break it – you bought it.

P = **Physical Fitness:** All Soldier's are expected to maintain themselves in accordance with the current military height/weight standards. Each Soldier is tasked with striving to keep themselves at the peak of their physical performance. This is not only good for the Army but also essential for your LIFE.

E = **Equal Opportunity:** All Soldiers will be treated in a fair and equal manner. There will be no preferential treatment or consideration given based on a Soldier's race, gender, religion, age, marital status, or military status (AGR, Technician or Traditional).

C = **Communication:** It must be the foundation of our organization to have open lines of communication. Use your chain of command first, but know that I have an open door policy for all Soldiers. I am always available to speak with Soldiers.

T = **Training:** Every effort will be made to develop exceptional training events. I expect NCOs to develop, plan, and execute realistic and meaningful training. This said - Attendance at drill is imperative. Split training is the exception and ONLY approved by the unit commander. You must train together so you are prepared to safely and effectively deploy together to execute your mission.

There are only two things to remember while I am commander:

1. *Treat others, as you would like to be treated, with Respect.*
2. *R.E.S.P.E.C.T. = Military Readiness for our FEDERAL & STATE missions.*

Alaska Guard appoints new 38th Troop Command commander



Photo by: Pfc. Karina Paraoan, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Col. Hunt Kerrigan passes the guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Harrington during a change of command ceremony held at the Alaska National Guard Armory on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Jan 7.

The passing of the guidon symbolizes the exchanging of responsibility from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander.

Col. Cathy Jorgensen, who has commanded 38th Troop Command since August 2009 is currently serving as the chief of staff for the Alaska Army National Guard.

“Col. Jorgensen’s leadership has made the 38th a strong, cohesive and resilient force,” Kerrigan said. “Her love for her Soldiers and their families is clear and I thank her for her all she’s done and will continue to do.”

“The cornerstone of my command philosophy is taking care of our soldiers, taking care of their families and supporting their employers,” Kerrigan said.

134TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT CAMP DENALI, FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA

Commander

Alaska Army National Guard
Brig. Gen. Mike Bridges

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Alaska National Guardsman Wins “Top Brass” Charity Sled Dog Race



Photo by: Sgt. Michelle Brown, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, and his three-dog team, Cooper, Eeyore and Lizzy, mush past the start line for the “Top Brass” Charity Sled Dog Race held at Tozier Track, Anchorage, Alaska, Feb. 11.

Sgt. Michelle Brown,
134th Public Affairs Detachment

ANCHORAGE, Alaska— The crisp winter air covered the glistening trail as an Alaska National Guardsman raced to the finish line during the “Top Brass” Charity Sled Dog Race held at Tozier Track Feb. 11.

Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Katkus, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, along with five senior leaders, representing all the branches of the U.S. military, participated in a three-mile dog sled race to determine who would be named the “top brass.”

Each participant was assigned a three-dog team and musher from

last year’s “Top Dog” Charity Sled Dog Race to serve as a mentor.

“This was excellent and really fun,” Katkus said. “About 100 yards into the trail you don’t hear anything except the dogs breathing and the sounds of the sled runners going down the trail.”

Katkus and his team of world champion athletes rose to the challenge and won the race with a course time of 9:28, nearly a minute faster than his fellow competitors.

He credited the win to his superior teammates named Cooper, Eeyore and Lizzy.

“This was my first time mushing, but I had a team of veteran dogs in front of me, keeping me on the

sled,” he said. “I also followed the advice I was given to just hang on to the sled and the dogs will do the work for you.”

In addition to the race, ExxonMobil made a \$20,000 contribution to the Wounded Warrior Project. This is a program designed to honor and empower wounded warriors by raising awareness, helping injured service members and providing them a variety of additional services.

“I would like to thank ExxonMobil on behalf of all of the military,” Katkus said. “I want to convey the importance of their donation and how it’s going to change people’s lives for the better.”

Alaska Guard Det 54 deploys to Afghanistan



Photo courtesy: Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson III, Task Force ODIN-A, Public Affairs

Left photo: Five members of Detachment 54, Alaska Army National Guard, pose with a U.S. flag to be sent to Gov. Sean Parnell, State of Alaska, as a thank you for a package of Alaska state flags he sent to the deployed unit. From left to right: Chief Warrant Officer Terry Rolлие, Detachment 54 commander; Chief Warrant Officer Dominick Kuntz, King Air 300 pilot; Chief Warrant Officer Steve Henslee, King Air 300 pilot; Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson, aerial sensor operator; and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Quigley, aerial sensor operator.

Right photo: A King Air 300 from the 306th Aerial Exploitation Battalion, Task Force Observe, Detect, Identify, and Neutralize - Afghanistan (TF ODIN- A), sits on the ramp as the sun sets on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The B Company Soldiers who pilot and operate the aircraft represent 11 Army National Guard state flight detachments including 10 Soldiers from the Alaska Army National Guard's Detachment 54.



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson III, Task Force ODIN-A, Public Affairs



Photo by: Staff Sgt. Jack Carlson III, Task Force ODIN-A, Public Affairs

Left photo: The afternoon sun sets on a Bagram Airfield landmark built in 1979. The Soviet Army tower has stood on the airfield for more than 30 years. Initially occupied in November 2001 by the Central Intelligence Agency, the tower was used as an observation post for Operation Jawbreaker during the opening days of the Afghanistan conflict.

Alaska National Guard prepares for Iron Dog

2LT Bernie Kale,
AKNG Public Affairs Office

CAMP DENALI, Alaska— Two Alaska National Guard members got in full-swing preparation mode to ride and represent the Alaska National Guard in the 2012 Iron Dog snowmachine race.

Sgt. 1st Class Elaine Jackson, of Anchorage, and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hanson, of Wasilla, have been preparing since August for the 2,000-mile trek, which is billed as the world's longest and toughest snowmachine race.

"It's extremely tough, both physically and mentally," said Jackson, who has been an Alaska Guard team rider the past two years. "You learn something new every time and build from that."

Jackson will be riding alongside Iron Dog rookie Hanson, who placed first in the Alaska National

Guard's time-trial competition to make the Guard team as the second rider.

"I was happy, excited and nervous," Hanson said. "Mentally, I knew I was ready for it, but you can't know until you actually get in the seat and hit the trail. That is why we train so hard for so long."

The Alaska National Guard has been a presenting partner for the Iron Dog since 2009. The Guard became the lead sponsor in order to support a uniquely Alaska event and bolster the Alaska National Guard throughout the state and nation. This is also the third year that the Alaska National Guard has had riders competing in the world-famous competition.

"I'm honored to have represented the Alaska National Guard," Jackson said. "There's



Photo by: 2nd Lt. Bernie Kale, AKNG Public Affairs Office

Sgt. 1st Class Elaine Jackson and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hanson, both of the Alaska Army National Guard, converse while pulling apart their Iron Dog 2012 race sleds for maintenance Jan. 6. The two Alaska National Guard members will be riding in this year's Iron Dog snow machine race.



Photo by: 2nd Lt. Bernie Kale, AKNG Public Affairs Office

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Hanson, Alaska Army National Guard, works on his race sled in preparation for a test run to prepare for the 2012 Iron Dog. This is the first year Hanson will be riding for the Alaska National Guard in the Iron Dog.

nothing like pulling into a village at three in the morning and seeing so many folks waiting just to see the Guard sleds pull in. It's an indescribable feeling."

For the second year in a row, the Iron Dog featured an ambassador team of riders to include Lt. Col. Joseph Lawendowski, Alaska Army National Guard. The team served as goodwill ambassadors for the race, stopping in villages along the trail to speak at schools and with community leaders.

The 2012 Iron Dog pro-class, featuring riders from across the globe, began Feb. 19 in Big Lake.

Sen. Murkowski visits deploying Alaska Army National Guardsmen



Photo by: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Chacon

Sen. Lisa Murkowski meets with members of the Alaska Army National Guard from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Airborne Infantry Regiment, during a training exercise on Camp Atterbury, Ind. Jan. 10. The Alaska Guardsmen received final pre-mobilization and validation training before leaving the U.S. for Afghanistan.



Photo by: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Chacon

Alaska Army National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Matthew Armstrong, of Bethel, meets with Sen. Lisa Murkowski Jan. 10 on Camp Atterbury, Ind. Murkowski visited Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 143rd Airborne Infantry Regiment, during their final pre-mobilization and validation training before leaving the U.S. for Afghanistan.

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said. "It's exactly what we needed."

As the first military responder in all domestic emergencies, the Guard is focused on doing everything it can to help the community, and according to Ausel, Guardsmen will stay as long as they're needed.

"We were hoping to leave Cordova in a better situation," Ausel said. "If that meant staying there until the next snow storm goes through, then we would have. I'm very proud of my Soldiers and the job they've done there. They worked with a sense of urgency and are very proud to serve the community down here. This is why they signed up to serve in the National Guard."



Photo by: Spc. Balinda O'Neal, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Anchorage resident Private Curtis Huffman, 297th Military Police Company, works to clear the roof of the Cordova Community Hospital Jan. 9.